GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3966
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001
IMPORT OF DIAMOND FROM CONGO
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Union Government have a proposal to buy diamond from Congo for polishing and cutting;

(b) whether any contract has been made by the Government with Congo in this regard;

(c) if not, whether the Government are considering to eliminate the middlemen system from this trade; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (d) : The Government of India have been encouraging the efforts of Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), a representative autonomous body of trade, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to directly import rough diamonds from the diamond mining countries. The GJEPC had sent a 9 member delegation to the Democratic Republic of Congo, to explore the possibilities of purchase of rough diamonds by directly participating in the tenders as are floated by Societe Minere de Bakwanga (MIBA).